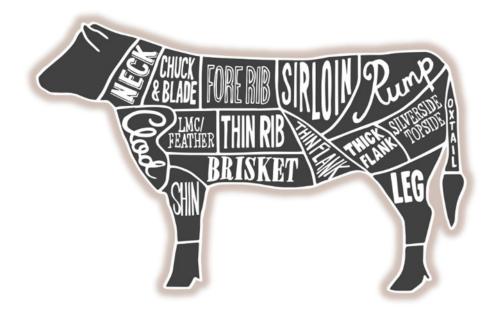


FY22 Annual Report Meat and Poultry Inspection Bureau



Mission

Montana's Meat and Poultry Inspection Bureau mission is to ensure that meat and poultry slaughtered, processed, and stored within the state meet all state and federal requirements for wholesome and unadulterated products. Our mission is accomplished through product and site inspections, licensing, product labeling and laboratory testing.

Table of Contents

FY21 Summarization Statement from Bureau Chief	
What the future holds	
Authorization3	
Organization & Funding3	
Administrative Unit	
Microbiological Testing5	
Inspection Unit	
Audit Unit8	
Food Safety Assessments	
Labeling9	
Compliance9	
Staff and Districts	
Administrative Unit Staff	
Inspection Unit10	
District Supervisors	
Meat and Poultry Inspectors10	
Audit Unit Staff11	
Appendix 1 - Licenses	
Appendix 2 – State Inspected Slaughter	4
Appendix 3 – Custom Exempt Slaughter	6ء
Appendix 4 – State Inspected Product Poundage	

FY22 Summarization Statement from Acting Bureau Chief

FY 22 was a year for big changes! In March, the Board of Livestock voted to recombine the Meat and Poultry Inspection and the Milk and Egg Bureaus. Together, it is now called the Meat, Milk, and Egg Inspection Bureau (MMEI) and combines all of Livestock's food safety team under one umbrella. This allowed for more logical use of resources and allowed the focus on food safety to be within one group. The Bureau also joined the Cooperative Interstate Shipping (CIS) Program in March. This program allows facilities to ship anywhere in the United States while still working with state inspectors. Thus far, one establishment has applied to join this program.

After many years of service, Mr. Gary Hamel retired from the Department of Livestock. Alicia Love, the Food Safety Officer, has been placed as Interim Bureau Chief. Meat inspection continues to have challenges retaining and hiring staff. We currently have about thirty percent staff vacancy.

Montana is seeing increased interest in inspection services statewide. There are currently four facilities in the application process. We are optimistic that the demand for local meat and poultry products will bring more businesses to serve the population.

What the Future Holds

This year has indicated that the need for inspection services will continue to increase as industry expands throughout the state. The program is working to streamline training for established and new staff and provide metrics for staff to give feedback.

Meat and poultry inspection will have an onsite audit from the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) in 2023. We are confident that this will be successful visit with improved program training and management. We have streamlined our training process and staff are now being cross trained by other supervisors to ensure that the statewide program has consistent inspections.

Authorization

According to section two of the Federal Meat Inspection Act, "Meat and meat food products are an important source of the nation's total supply of food. They are consumed throughout the nation and the major portion thereof moves in interstate or foreign commerce. It is essential in the public interest that the health and welfare of consumers be protected by assuring that meat and meat food products distributed to them are wholesome, not adulterated, and properly marked, labeled and packaged..."

The Montana Meat and Poultry Inspection Bureau operates in a manner similar to the other 26 states with a cooperative state meat inspection program. Montana carries out its own inspection services in a manner that is "at least equal to" inspection services provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), as well as utilizing the federal Public Health Information System (PHIS) a web-based data driven system that utilizes role assignments and predictive analytics to collect, consolidate and analyze establishment data to generate and assign specific inspection tasks to improve food safety.

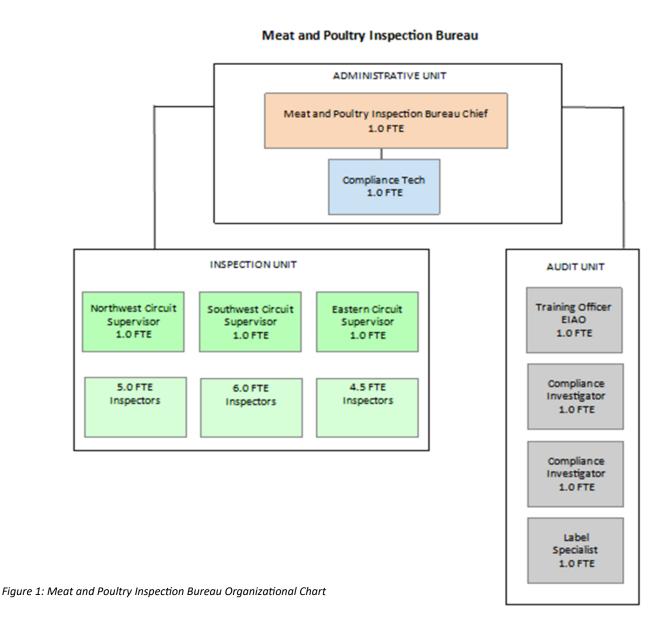
To help meet the federal "at least equal to" standard, Montana has adopted both federal law and rule. Under 81-9-219, Montana Code Annotated (MCA), Montana adopts the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Federal Poultry Inspection Act, and the Federal Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. Each of these federal acts addresses various aspects of how the Montana program operates.

Further, Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 32.6.712 adopts Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). These rules outline how Montana is to carry out its meat and poultry inspection program. In addition, Montana Meat and Poultry Inspection utilizes other laws and rules under Title 81 of MCA and Title 32 of ARM.

Organization and Funding

The Meat and Poultry Bureau operates on an annual budget of approximately \$2.3 million which consists of 50% federal funding and 50% state general fund. The program has 24 FTE (full time employee) positions.

Montana Meat and Poultry Inspection Bureau is organized into three main units: administration, inspection, and audit units.



4

Administrative Unit

The Program Administration Unit provides program oversight, licensing, strategic planning, performance management, and records management. This unit is responsible for assuring administrative requirements of FSIS are met.

The compliance tech issues licenses and renewals annually using the LIVAPPS data software system. All slaughter headcount records and meat and poultry products poundage are also entered into LIVAPPS and compiled for quarterly statistical reporting. Headcount data is also compiled and reported to Montana Agricultural Statistics quarterly.

Program staff must obtain and maintain clearance to the secure federal Public Health Information System (PHIS) for recording inspection duties. The clearance process as well as issuing of all USDA issued equipment is handled by the administrative unit assuring all inspectors can receive proper clearance and USDA LincPass identity cards as required. The compliance tech serves the roles of Grant Curator, Role Management Analyst, and User Administrator for Montana in PHIS maintaining inspection staff assignments and establishment information.

The administrative unit is responsible for invoicing establishments for fees incurred for any overtime, holiday, or weekend inspection service as well as charges for inspection services for any species "non-amenable" to the Federal Meat Inspection Act (i.e. bison are amenable in Montana, elk, llama, etc.) as required by regulation are billed monthly. Fees are tracked and reported to FSIS.

See Appendix 1 for Licenses

Microbiological Testing

Montana's inspection program conducts product sampling for detecting pathogens in meat and poultry products. The Administrative Unit compliance tech coordinates the program's product sample testing. Establishment sampling is directed to each inspector monthly and must be monitored to assure required frequencies are met and that any product sample found positive for any pathogen is addressed as required. These efforts may include increased sampling, a Food Safety Assessment, or a revision to the plant's Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system.

In FY22 the Montana program worked with the Montana Public Health Laboratory to test for a variety of pathogens such as *Salmonella*, *E. coli O157:H7*, six major non-O157 shiga toxin producing *E. coli* (STECS), and *Listeria Monocytogenes*. The Bureau also was able to reach a verbal agreement with South Dakota State Animal Research Diagnostic Laboratory for additional sample testing that may be necessary, as well as testing requirements and accreditation for the Cooperative Interstate Shipping program that Montana will initiate in the near future.

Inspection staff conduct residue sampling for both the National Residue Program and local kidney swab testing (KIS) for residue testing of show animals or any animal that may be suspected of recent injection. There may also be food chemistry testing requirements for certain products.

In FY22 meat and poultry inspectors will collect approximately 180 raw beef samples and 130 ready-to-eat product samples for testing. Montana also tests raw ground bison meat intended for sale. Montana's sampling program is a critical component for assuring that products produced under inspection are safe for consumers. Staff records each sample by lot, date of collection, and verifies products are held from commerce until the sample results are confirmed negative.

Inspection Unit

District Supervisors

The image below represents the three supervisory districts in Montana: Northwest, Southwest and Eastern.

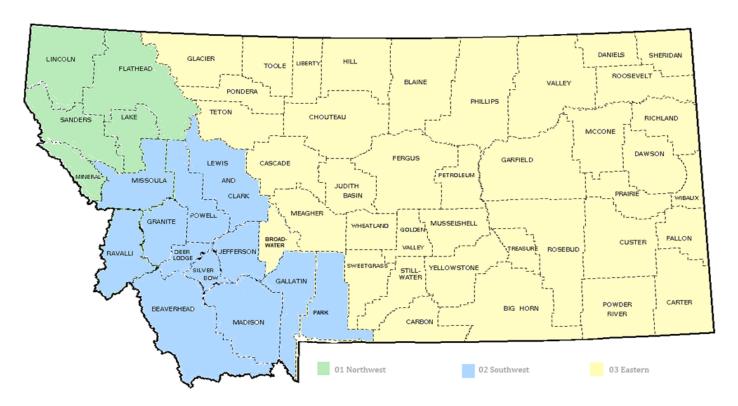


Figure 2: Meat and Poultry Inspection Bureau map of supervisory districts.

The 3 district supervisors are responsible for local meat inspection staff in their district to provide establishments inspection services. They assure that field inspectors are completing their job duties as assigned, approve time and schedules, and complete job performance appraisals as required. Supervisors provide both slaughter and processing relief inspection as necessary.

Inspector supervisors use their knowledge of hazard analysis and HACCP plans to assure both inspection staff and plant personnel are following regulations. Supervisors travel within their districts to conduct onsite plant reviews throughout the year, assist staff at plants, provide inspection coverage when necessary.

Inspection Unit – continued

The image below reflects the bureau's sixteen inspection regions

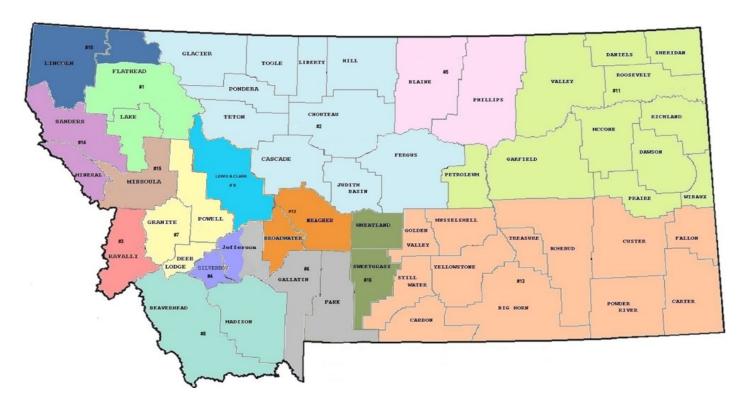


Figure 3: Inspector regions

Field Inspectors

Montana MPI inspectors carry out day to day inspection of livestock and poultry products at state inspected establishments. Those same inspectors also inspect all custom exempt operations and meat storage units throughout the year. As of the end of FY22 this effort included 30 official state inspected establishments, 132 custom exempt operations, and 171 meat storage units.

New inspectors are required to receive Inspection Methods training from FSIS in their first year. The online 2 week training course covers livestock slaughter, including human handling requirements, and critical control points in production of products produced under state inspection. Staff must also keep up with general computer software updates as well as their functions in the PHIS system.

By federal law an inspector must be onsite during slaughter operations. Animal carcasses and organs exhibiting questionable conditions or disease symptoms are retained for final disposition by a veterinarian under contract with the agency for their services. All slaughter operations are done under the sanitation guidelines required by USDA and establishments must adhere to strict humane handling regulations.

Inspectors also oversee the processing of meat and poultry products. Personnel are trained in food safety Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) and proper record keeping. All products produced under inspection must follow a HACCP plan and staff must document hazard analysis steps, critical control points and

all recording inspection tasks in PHIS to assure the proper steps and processes are followed. Inspectors provide pre-operational inspection to verify sanitation procedures are met at the start of each process and/or day. Documenting daily duties can be extensive and time consuming. These records are available for inspection at any time.

Inspectors also check for correct labeling of products, including review of ingredients and net weights; assure the mark of inspection is used properly; look for any safety hazards or sanitation concerns in the production area; and conduct meetings with plant management regarding various subjects and regulations.

Montana MPI inspection staff are required to keep up on FSIS Notices and Directives issued by USDA as guidance on the application of regulation. Staff must determine which regulation is applicable to an establishment.

Montana Meat and Poultry Inspection staff also oversee custom exempt facilities. These facilities are permitted to slaughter and process product for use by the owner, members of his household, and non-paying guests. Products from custom operations may not be resold and must be marked "not for sale". Like officially inspected establishments, custom exempt facilities are required to meet and follow all sanitation guidelines. Although not subject to animal by animal inspection, onsite inspections of custom exempt facilities and records are conducted no less than twice per year. Meat and/or poultry meat depot storage sites are reviewed once per year.

See **Appendix 2** for FY22 state inspected slaughter headcounts

See **Appendix 3** for FY22 custom exempt slaughter headcounts

See **Appendix 4** for FY22 state inspected product poundage

Audit Unit

The Audit Unit consists of an Enforcement, Investigations and Analysis Officer (EIAO), a label specialist, and two compliance investigators. Compliance functions include those regulations that govern outside the inplant inspection process.

The EIAO is part of the staff required to meet the "at least equal to" obligations for state meat inspection programs. A program EIAO must attend a FSIS 12-day virtual EIAO training course, in addition to the two-week Inspection Methods course. The EIAO has several job duties including conducting food safety assessments (FSAs), providing outreach to the state's meat and poultry processors, and participating in recall activities. In addition, the EIAO will oversee the training for inspection staff and supervises the other audit unit staff.

Food Safety Assessments

The main responsibility of the EIAO is to conduct a Food Safety Assessment (FSA). FSAs are comprehensive reviews of an establishment's food safety systems including the hazard analysis, HACCP plan, sanitation, microbiological testing, plant production practices, and any other practices and procedures that impact food safety. FSIS recommends routine FSAs are completed at all inspected establishments at a frequency no less than once every four years. Other situations may require a "for cause" FSA to be completed immediately, like repeated non compliances or product adulteration.

During an FSA, the EIAO may spend several days in an official establishment reviewing written documentation as well as observing all aspects of slaughter and product production. In establishments that produce ready-to-eat products, the EIAO also collects environmental samples testing for *Listeria Monocytogenes*.

The EIAO may take enforcement actions based on the findings of the FSA. FSAs are entered into the Public Health Information System as part of the permanent record for each establishment.

Labeling

The labeling specialist ensures that meat and poultry products are properly labeled prior to entering commerce.

Proper labeling contains important consumer information such as product identification, net weights, ingredients, and allergens. Labels of products produced under inspection must all bear the mark of inspection. Label approval is an ongoing procedure as new establishments are brought under inspection and current establishments add products, update product formulas, change ingredients, and label designs.

The label specialist visits state inspected establishments annually and audits labels to assure products are being marketed to consumers with correct information. Audits are conducted at all state inspected establishments to assure ingredient statements are correct.

This position provides label training to both inspectors and establishment personnel.

Compliance

Montana Meat and Poultry Inspection has two compliance investigators who travel around the state ensuring retail establishments that deal in meat and poultry products are following both state and federal laws. Compliance staff may also investigate consumer complaints, ensure adulterated and misbranded product are removed from commerce, and investigate the sales of meat or poultry outside the regulatory framework.

Compliance investigators travel statewide to assure local meat supply is unadulterated and labeled properly. They provide outreach and education to the public. Compliance staff work in partnership with the USDA compliance officer based out of the Port of Sweet Grass.

These positions may also provide relief inspection.

Staff and Districts

Administrative Unit Staff

Bureau Chief, Helena – Gary Hamel (ret.) Alicia Love, interim, Helena HQ Compliance Tech, Helena – Bonnie Marceau, Helena HQ

Inspection Unit Staff

District Supervisors

District 01 Northwest district supervisor – Stephen Fucci, Columbia Falls

District 02 Southwest district supervisor – Nick Wormgoor, Belgrade

District 03 Eastern district supervisor – Vacant

State Meat & Poultry Inspectors

Region 1:	Lake, Flathead	Vacant, Kalispell
Region 2:	Northcentral	Vanessa Thompson, Great Falls
Region 3:	Ravalli	Jennifer Alm Meinzen, Lolo
Region 4:	Silverbow, Powell, Granite,	
	Deer Lodge	Lori Mulcahy, Butte
Region 5:	Blaine, Phillips	Kathi Molyneaux, Chinook
Region 6:	Gallatin, Park	Eron Avery, Helena
Region 8:	Beaverhead, Madison	John Elmore, Dillon
Region 9:	Lewis & Clark	
Region 10:	Lincoln, NW Flathead	Vacant, Kalispell
Region 11:	Northeastern	Rom Hedges, Antelope
Region 12:	Meagher, Broadwater	Don Holwegner, Bozeman
Region 13:	Southeastern	
Region 14:	Mineral, Sanders	Kayla Papesh, Superior
Region 15:	Missoula	Caleb Bagnell, Missoula
Easter	n Relief:	Steve Buchanan, Big Timber
North	west Relief	Austin Wardlow Missoula

Northwest Relief: Austin Wardlow, Missoula Southwest Relief: Austin Hoopes, Helena

Staff and Districts, Inspection Unit Staff continued

Audit Unit Staff

Enforcement, Investigations and Analysis Officer (EIAO), Helena – Alicia Love, Helena HQ

Label Specialist, Helena – Samantha Novak, Helena HQ

Compliance Investigators -

James Peterson, Bozeman Ben Schmidt, Columbia Falls

Appendix 1 - Licenses

361 licensed facilities. License numbers in each supervisory district:

District 01 – Northwest & Western Montana

State Inspected Plants: 8
Custom Exempt Facilities: 8
Meat Depot Storage Units: 37

District 02 – Southwest & Central Montana

State Inspected Plants: 14

Custom Exempt Facilities: 27
Meat Depot Storage Units: 65

District 03 - Eastern & Northcentral Montana

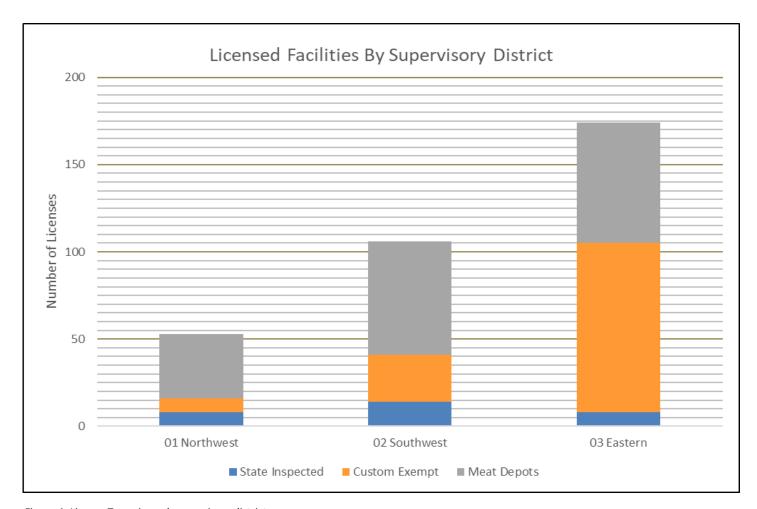


Figure 4: License Types in each supervisory district

APPENDIX 2 - FY22 State Inspected Slaughter

State Inspected – Livestock slaughter headcounts

Animal Type	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals
Steer	285	357	371	352	330	400	332	277	255	242	308	344	3853
Heifer	130	82	187	160	101	139	185	185	221	179	149	198	1916
Beef Cow	97	53	102	82	81	128	95	109	187	144	163	182	1423
Dairy Cow	C	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bull	31	. 20	17	17	11	21	23	21	29	46	44	50	330
Heavy Calf	C	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Market Swine	568	1162	644	387	383	366	340	394	464	404	504	436	6052
Sow	8	11	4	15	14	1	11	10	21	13	19	9	136
Boar	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	7
Lamb	117	228	165	146	222	254	74	84	112	114	123	113	1752
Sheep	8	52	21	15	37	35	48	32	65	11	13	16	353
Goat	21	. 7	34	5	7	5	11	7	7	21	12	15	152
Elk	(0	0	0	0	3	0	0	26	0	33	0	62
Bison	3	0	2	52	6	5	15	8	4	2	8	10	115
Other Voluntar	2	0	2	0	7	0	0	7	7	5	2	2	34

Table 1: FY22 State Inspected livestock slaughter headcounts

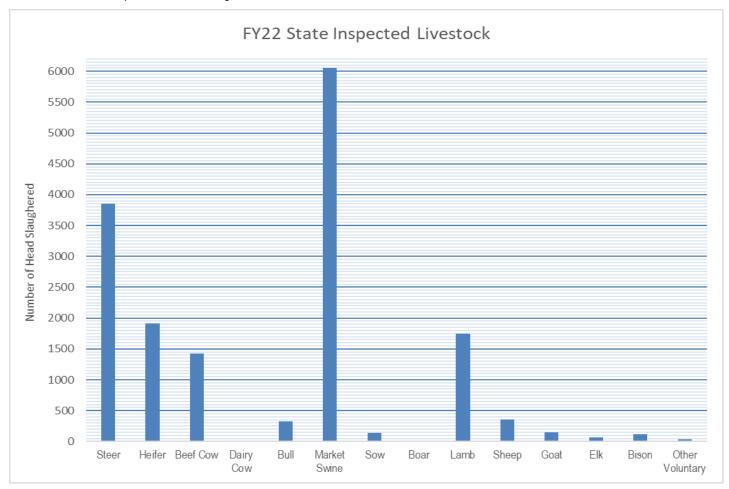


Figure 5: FY22 State inspected livestock slaughter

APPENDIX 2 - FY22 State Inspected Slaughter continued

State Inspected – Poultry Slaughter

Animal Type	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals
Young Chicken	1479	0	0	0	0	2646	0	2630	0	1336	1118	0	9209
Heavy Fowl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Young Turkey	0	0	0	2691	830	0	0	2	624	0	0	0	4147
Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ratite	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	160
Rabbit	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6

Table 2: FY22 State inspected poultry slaughtered

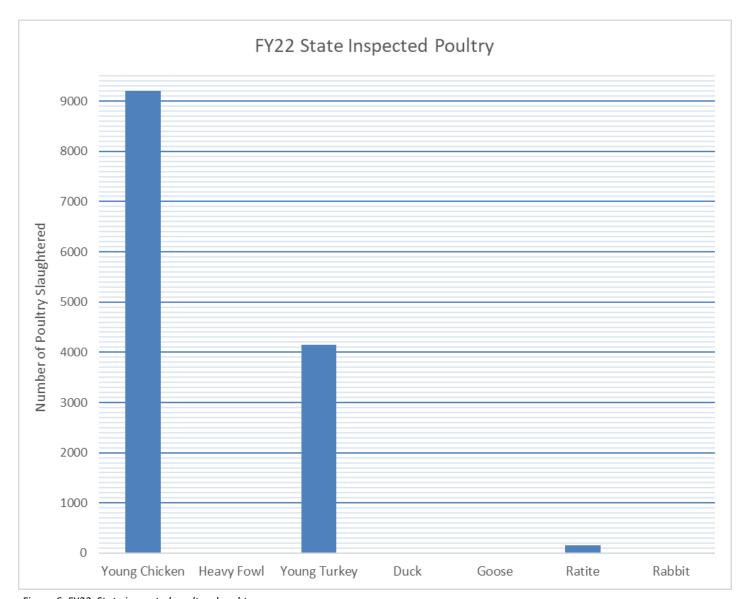


Figure 6: FY22 State inspected poultry slaughter

APPENDIX 3 - FY22 Custom Exempt Slaughter

Custom Exempt – Livestock slaughtered headcounts

Animal Type	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	TOTALS
Steer	142	337	669	702	2956	415	0	0	895	605	1651	2304	10676
Heifer	135	115	216	228	943	91	0	0	371	53	942	1175	4269
Beef Cow	29	92	130	108	391	75	1	0	189	62	367	608	2052
Bull	14	49	65	100	287	25	0	0	103	27	202	264	1136
Heavy Calf	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Swine	122	266	704	539	2310	361	6	0	717	396	1131	906	7458
Lamb	10	55	117	60	263	56	4	0	96	63	142	169	1035
Sheep	13	0	26	0	244	10	0	0	67	0	35	135	530
Goat	0	10	7	3	43	0	0	0	32	2	13	26	136
Bison	9	0	30	0	23	29	0	0	52	1	51	21	216
Other	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5
	474	924	1964	1742	7462	1062	11	0	2524	1209	4534	5608	27514

Table 3: FY22 Custom exempt livestock slaughter

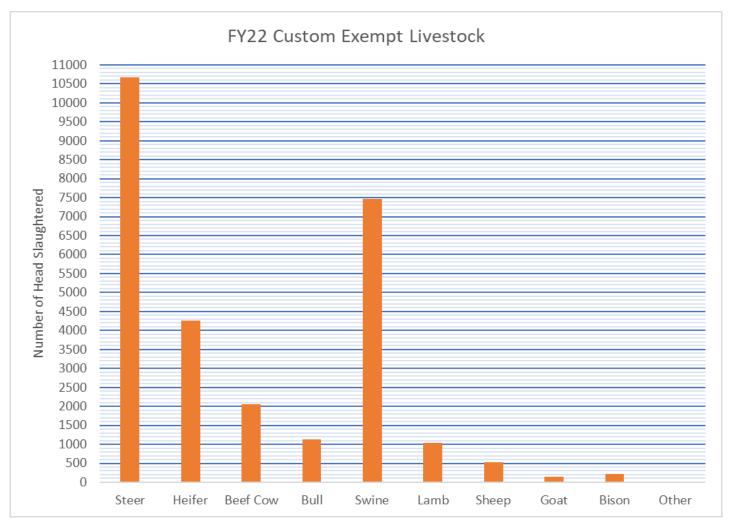


Figure 7: FY22 Custom exempt livestock slaughter

APPENDIX 3 - FY22 Custom Exempt Slaughter continued

Custom Exempt – Poultry slaughtered headcounts

Animal Type	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	TOTALS
Young Chicken	42	3085	4671	5120	45050	0	0	0	13078	4168	16240	15127	106581
Young Turkey	21	1504	0	500	10131	0	0	0	2490	2069	2787	0	19502
Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1100	1215	847	3162
Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	250	0	250
Ratite	0	0	162	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	162
Rabbit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
	63	4589	4833	5620	55181	0	0	0	15568	7337	20492	15974	129657

Table 4: FY22 Custom exempt slaughtered poultry

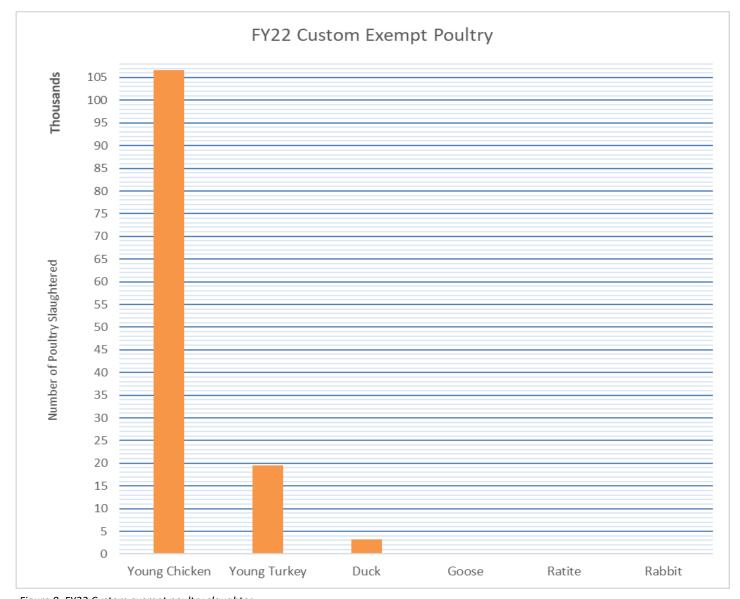


Figure 8: FY22 Custom exempt poultry slaughter

Appendix 4 – FY22 Inspected Product Poundage Produced

Products produced under inspection services are tracked by the HACCP categories outlined in CFR 417.2. They include:

- Raw Ground raw product that is put through a grinding process; like ground beef and ground pork
- Raw Not Ground product that is not ground and intact; like carcass halves & quarters, cuts (bone-in or boned), primals & sub-primals (steaks, chops)
- Not Heat Treated Shelf Stable product is acidified/fermented processed without heat/cooking
- Heat Treated Shelf Stable product is processed with heat and/or drying until shelf stable, like jerky and snack sticks
- Fully Cooked Not Shelf Stable products that are brought up to required cooking temperatures but not shelf stable, like some hams and sausages

FY22 State Quarterly Inspected Product Poundage by Category

	I	Ι	Π	Ι	
MEAT	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	FY22 Total Pounds
WEAT	130	ZIIG	Jiu	701	Processed
03B Raw Ground	375,453	423,170	347,820	395,579	1,542,022
03C Raw Not Ground	522,761	461,219	490,328	504,922	1,979,230
03E Not Heat Treated - SS	1,676	1,647	1,522	643	5,488
03F Heat Treated - SS	28,040	33,331	25,301	7,922	94,594
03G Fully Cooked - Not SS	78,719	88,517	88,720	96,525	352,481
03H Heat Treated - Not Fully Cooked - Not SS	16,519	24,938	21,800	28,436	91,693
03J Slaughter with no further processing	646,601	567,291	560,927	768,018	2,542,837
DOLLITON	1.4	2	2	4+1-	FY22 Total Pounds
POULTRY	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Processed
03B Raw Ground	2,090	702	200	1,781	4,773
03C Raw Not Ground	2,240	66,700	26,635	17,831	113,406
03E Not Heat Treated - SS	23	29	45	8	105
03F Heat Treated - SS	0	0	0	0	0
03G Fully Cooked - Not SS	21,869	24,253	18,329	19,209	83,660
03H Heat Treated - Not Fully Cooked - Not SS	0	0	0	0	0
03J Slaughter with no further processing	0	0	0	0	0

Table 5: State inspected meat and poultry products produced by HACCP category each quarter in FY22